

AGRI NEWS

European Parliament Committee
on Agriculture and Rural
Development
Newsletter

8th legislature - Issue No 5/2014

Meeting of 06-07 October 2014

6 October: 15.30-18.30 (PHS 3C50)

7 October: 09.00-12.30 (PHS 3C50)



Highlights

Debate with outgoing Commissioner Ciolos



Outgoing Commissioner Dacian Ciolos will be invited for a last debate with AGRI Committee Members. This will be an opportunity for him to present the results of his mandate and discuss the lessons which can be drawn from the work done during the past five years and especially the CAP reform (Debate on Monday 6 October - 17.30-18.30).

Competitive positions of EU Member States on agri-food world markets



The EU has recently evolved from being a net importer to a net exporter of agri-food products. EU agri-food trade has recently been in the spotlight due to the current Russian ban and on-going trade negotiations. Mr José Maria Garcia Avarez Coque from the University of Valencia will present a study analysing the EU's competitive position in agri-food international markets. The study also draws up a list of the determinants of trade competitiveness and provides some strategic recommendations (Presentation on Monday 6 October at 15.00).

Tackling unfair trading practices in the food chain



Members will pursue their debate with the Commission on its communication from July 2014 on tackling unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food supply chain. This communication encourages operators in the European food supply chain to participate in voluntary schemes aiming to promote good faith and fair dealing and to reduce practices that grossly deviate from good commercial conduct. The communication however does not foresee regulatory action at EU level.

Competition issues arising in the implementation of the CAP



Representatives from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP) will make a presentation to the AGRI Committee on competition issues arising from the implementation of the CAP. In particular, they will update Members on work related to the preparation of the guidelines on the application of competition rules to agriculture called for by the Parliament in the context of the CAP reform and they will present a study on the retail sector highlighting among other issues the concentration of suppliers and retailers and imbalances between them.

Update on the African Swine Fever situation



A representative from the Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) will provide an update on the African Swine Fever situation in the Baltic countries and Poland where cases of this devastating pig disease have been detected since early 2014. On 29 January, following the first confirmed cases in Lithuania, the Russian Federation imposed a blanket ban on all pork meat coming from the EU. European pork exports to Russia normally total around 750 000 tonnes a year (worth €1.4 billion) - a quarter of total EU pork exports & 20% of Russian consumption. The EU has called for the formation of a World Trade Organisation (WTO) panel to challenge the restriction.



Work in progress

Novel foods: presentation by the Commission



Rapporteur Daciana Sârbu (S&D, RO) will present and discuss with AGRI Members her draft opinion on the Commission proposal on novel foods. She proposes several amendments regarding in particular the strengthening of safeguards concerning food safety and consumers' interests and the use of delegated powers. The AGRI opinion is expected to be adopted at the 5-6 November meeting, with a view to the vote of the Committee on environment, public health and food safety (ENVI), the lead Committee on this file, planned on 24 November.

Next committee meeting

05-06 November 2014

Wednesday 5 November: 09.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30 (room JAN 6Q2, Brussels)

Thursday 6 November: 09.00-12.30 (room JAN 6Q2, Brussels)

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